

LICENSURE REGULATIONS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

8 VAC 20-21-260

American Sign Language

8VAC20-21-260. Foreign language preK-12.

A. The specific language of the endorsement will be noted on the license.

B. Foreign language preK-12 --languages other than Latin.

1. The program in the foreign language will ensure that the candidate has:

a. demonstrated the following competencies:

(1) Understanding of authentic speech at a normal tempo;

(2) Ability to speak with a command of vocabulary, pronunciation, and syntax adequate for expressing thoughts to a native speaker not used to dealing with foreigners;

(3) Ability to read and comprehend authentic texts of average difficulty and of mature content;

(4) Ability to write a variety of texts including description and narration with clarity and correctness in vocabulary and syntax;

(5) Knowledge of geography, history, social structure and artistic and literary contributions of the target societies;

(6) Ability to interpret contemporary lifestyles, customs, and cultural patterns of the target societies;

(7) Understanding of the application of basic concepts of phonology, syntax, and morphology to the teaching of the foreign language;

(8) Knowledge of the national standards for foreign language learning, current proficiency-based objectives of the teaching of foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels, elementary and secondary methods and techniques for attaining these objectives, the assessment of foreign language skills, the use of media in teaching

languages, current curricular developments, the relationship of language study to other areas of the curriculum, and the professional literature of foreign language teaching; and

(9) Understanding of and proficiency in grammar, usage, and mechanics and their integration in writing; and

b. Participated in opportunities for significant foreign language study or living experiences in this country or abroad, or both.

2. Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have:

a. Graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in a foreign language; or

b. Completed 30 semester hours above the intermediate level in the foreign language. (Endorsement in a second language may be obtained with 24 semester hours of course work above the intermediate level.) The program shall include (i) courses in advanced grammar and composition, conversation, culture and civilization, and literature and (ii) a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels; or

c. Native speakers or candidates who have learned a foreign language without formal academic credit in a college or university must complete the following requirements:

(1) Achieved a minimum score of 600 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, if English is not the native language. Native speakers of English are exempt from this test;

(2) Achieved a composite score at or above the 50th percentile on the listening, speaking, reading, writing, civilization and culture sections of the Modern Language Association Proficiency Test for Teachers and Advanced Students. No individual section score shall be below the 25th percentile; and

(3) Earned a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from an accredited college or university in the United States.

C. Foreign language preK-12 --Latin.

1. The program in Latin will ensure that the candidate has demonstrated the following competencies:

a. Ability to read and comprehend Latin in the original;

b. Ability to pronounce Latin with consistent classical (or ecclesiastical) pronunciation;

c. Knowledge of the vocabulary, phonetics, morphology and syntax of Latin and the etymological impact of Latin;

d. Ability to discuss the culture and civilization of Greco-Roman society, including history, daily life, art, architecture, and geography;

e. Ability to explain the relationship of Greco-Roman culture and civilization to subsequent cultures and civilizations;

f. Knowledge of major literary masterpieces and their relationship to the historical and social context of the society;

g. Competency in (i) current methodologies for teaching Latin at the elementary and secondary levels; (ii) lesson planning, scope and sequencing of material, instructional strategies and assessment under the guidance of an experienced Latin teacher; and

h. Understanding of and proficiency in grammar, usage, and mechanics and their integration in writing.

2. Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have:

a. Graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in Latin; or

b. Completed 24 semester hours of Latin above the intermediate level. Up to six hours of Roman history, Roman life, mythology, or archaeology may be included in the total hours and 3 semester hours of methods of teaching Latin at the elementary and secondary levels are required.

D. Foreign language preK-12 -- American Sign Language

1. The program in American Sign Language will ensure that the candidate has:

a. demonstrated the following competencies:

(1) Understanding of native users of American Sign Language at a normal tempo;

(2) Ability to sign with a command of vocabulary, nonmanual behaviors, and syntax adequate for expressing thoughts to an American Sign Language user not accustomed to dealing with non-American Sign Language users;

(3) Knowledge of history, social structure and artistic and literary contributions of the Deaf culture;

(4) Ability to interpret contemporary lifestyles, customs, and cultural patterns of the Deaf culture;

(5) Understanding of the application of basic concepts of phonology (e.g., handshapes, types of signs, orientation on the body, sign movements), syntax, and morphology to the teaching of the American Sign Language;

(6) Knowledge of the national standards for foreign language learning, current proficiency-based objectives of the teaching of foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels, elementary and secondary methods and techniques for attaining these objectives, the assessment of foreign language skills, the use of media in teaching languages, current curricular developments, the relationship of language study to other areas of the curriculum, and the professional literature of foreign language teaching; and

(7) Understanding of and proficiency in English grammar, usage, and mechanics and their integration in writing.

b. participation in opportunities for significant study of the linguistics of American Sign Language and immersion experiences in the Deaf culture.

2. Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have:

a. Graduated from an approved teacher preparation program in a foreign language-- American Sign Language; or

b. Completed a major in American Sign Language or 24 semester hours above the intermediate level in American Sign Language. The program shall include (i) courses in advanced grammar and syntax, conversation, and culture and (ii) a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels; or

c. Native users or candidates who have learned American Sign Language without formal academic credit in a college or university must complete the following requirements:

(1) Competency in American Sign Language demonstrated by written documentation of one of the following:

(a) hold a current, valid Qualified or Professional certification by the American Sign Language Teachers Association;

(b) hold a current, valid Virginia Quality Assurance Screening Level III Interpreting or higher issued by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;

(c) hold a current, valid Registry of Interpreters for Deaf certification in at least one of the following: Certificate of Interpretation (CI), Certificate of Deaf Interpretation

(CDI), Reverse Skills Certification (RSC), or Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC)

(d) hold a current, valid National Association for the Deaf Level IV or higher

(2) Earned a minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from an accredited college or university in the United States.

~~[It is recommended that]~~ [I]individuals who are serving as teachers of American Sign Language in a public or accredited nonpublic school who hold a current, valid Virginia teaching license (Collegiate Professional or Postgraduate Professional License) [shall] be given a period of two years ~~[within the effective date of these regulations]~~ [, July 1, 2001 to July 1, 2003] to meet the requirements for the endorsement in American Sign Language. [Individual not employed as teachers of American Sign Language as of July 1, 2001 shall be required to meet these regulations.]